

Appl. No. 09/807,968
Amendment dated Oct. 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 14, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14 (currently amended). A shear bolt coupling assembly comprising:

a first coupling member with a first radially extending flange having an inside face, an opposed outside face and a plurality of radially extending open-ended slots along a perimeter thereof, each slot having a recessed portion on said outside face;

5 a second coupling member with a second radially extending flange having an inside face, and an opposed outside face and a plurality of radially extending open-ended slots along a perimeter thereof, each slot having a recessed portion on said outside face, wherein said first and second coupling member are coaxially engaged so as to position said inside faces in a facing relationship;

10 an elongate shear bolt having a first portion forming a shear area of a given shear strength, a second portion on each side of said first portion forming a shoulder of larger diameter than said first portion for flush engagement with said inside face of each of said first and second flanges to provide a desired clearance therebetween, and a third portion extending from each of said shoulders adapted to receive a fastening assembly to secure
15 said shear bolt in an aligned pair of said slots in said first and second flanges and thereby securely connect said first and second coupling members for transferring a shear force therebetween up to said given shear strength, said fastening assembly being insertable into a respective recessed portion and including a stop means for preventing said shear bolt from being urged radially out of said aligned slots by centrifugal force, ~~and said shear~~

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20 ~~bolt being removable from said coaxially engaged coupling members without increasing said desired clearance upon disengaging said fastening assemblies from said recessed portions, wherein said desired clearance may be maintained both before and after overload.~~

15 (previously presented). The assembly of claim 14 wherein said stop means comprises a washer element adapted to register with said recessed portion.

16 (currently amended). The assembly of claim 14 wherein said shear area is formed by a said first portion of said shear bolt having a radially inwardly curved turned down profile.

17 (currently amended). The assembly of claim 15 wherein said shear area is formed by a said first portion of said shear bolt having a radially inwardly curved turned down profile.

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(cont)
18 (currently amended). The assembly of claims 14, 15, 16 or 17 wherein said third portion of said shear bolt includes opposed planar surfaces adjacent said second portion for slideably engaging any one of said slot slots in a close clearance fit to avoid rotation of said shear bolt therein.

19 (new). The assembly of claims 14, 15, 16 or 17 further including a washer element having an opening for insertion onto said third portion and adapted to register with said recessed portion in a respective first or second flange, wherein the location of said opening in said washer element provides a means of adjusting the radial spacing of

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said shear bolt from a given radial reference point of said first and second coupling members.

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(amended)

20 (new). The assembly of claim 18 further including [a washer element] having an opening for insertion onto said third portion and adapted to register with said recessed portion in a respective first or second flange, wherein the location of said opening in said washer element provides a means of adjusting the radial spacing of said shear bolt from a given radial reference point of said first and second coupling members.

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached drawing sheet includes a change to Fig.3 wherein the lowermost numeral 70 has been changed to 72. This sheet replaces the original drawings sheet of Fig.3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet of Fig.3